

"Votes for Women," January 21, 1916.

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The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. IX. (Third Series), No. 411.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1916.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free)

THE "SPLENDOUR" OF LOW WAGES



WOMAN DISPENSER: "'Splendid,' am I? Then don't weep crocodile tears over it, but just see that I get my vote to protect myself against people who offer me less than a man's wage for doing a man's work!"

(The "Daily Mail," in its leading article, on January 17, said, "The Women are Splendid," and dilated on the merits of all those who, by doing men's work, "are helping the great cause of Freedom."
The same paper records an interview in which it is stated that women chemists are badly wanted by the Army Medical Authorities, but will not apply for the posts because they are offered only 30s. per week, without food or allowances, to do the work of men who are paid 6s. a day, with allowances.)

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

27, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. Telephone, Holborn 5880
Colours: Purple, White and Orange

Committee
Miss Lena Ashwell
Miss Bertha Brewster
Mr. Albert Dawson
Mr. Gerald Gould
Mr. Charles Gray
Mrs. Agnes H. Harben
Mr. Henry W. Nevins
Mr. John Scurr (Hon. Treas. pro tem.)
Miss Evelyn Sharp
Mrs. Elaine Whelen
Mrs. Ayrton Gould (Hon. Secretary)
Major H. J. Gillespie (Hon. Treasurer)

THE CAMPAIGN

Tuesday, January 25; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting.—U.S. Women's Club. Speaker: Mrs. Henderson.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28; 7.30 P.M.—PUBLIC MEETING, KINGSLEY HALL, BRISTOL. SPEAKERS: MRS. DESPARD, MR. ROBERT SMILLIE, MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL, AND MISS EVELYN SHARP. CHAIR: MR. GEORGE LANSBURY. ADMISSION FREE.

Monday, January 31.—Members' Meeting.—Borough Hall, Bolton. Address by Mr. Beanland.

Wednesday, February 2; 8 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Queen's College, Birmingham. Speaker: Mrs. Elaine Whelen.

Thursday, February 3; 8 p.m.—Discussion, on "Woman's Part in the Peace Settlement."—Liverpool Women's Suffrage Club, Theosophical Society's Rooms, 13, Colquitt Street, Liverpool. Speaker: Mrs. Sydney Style.

Saturday, February 5; 7.30 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Pembroke Chapel, Liverpool. Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. F. M. Edwards and Mrs. Bamber. Chair: Councillor Richardson.

Sunday, February 6; 7.30 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Chapel Street, Salford, Manchester. Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and others. Chair: Professor Merriek.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25; 2.30 P.M.—GRAND ENTERTAINMENT (IN AID OF U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB).—NEW THEATRE, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.C. TICKETS, AT USUAL THEATRE PRICES, CAN BE OBTAINED ON AND AFTER FEBRUARY 1, AT 27, CHANCERY LANE AND NEW THEATRE BOX OFFICE. (SEE BELOW.)

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS IN LONDON

London Members' Meeting

On Wednesday in last week a general meeting of the London members of the U.S. was called by the Committee in the Central Hall, Westminster, and was very well attended.

Mrs. Whelen and Miss Somers having been elected tellers, Miss Brewster, from the Chair, proposed the new Constitution *en bloc*, by which the Society will, if the Constitution be passed by representatives of the whole U.S. at a forthcoming Council meeting, be placed on a democratic basis, with an elected Committee. Miss Brewster stated that the decision to reconstitute the fabric of the Society had been arrived at for various reasons, the principal ones being that its democratisation would bring headquarters more into touch with the branches and with members generally, and would also bring the U.S. into line with other women's (as well as International) organizations with whom it might be desirable to co-operate from time to time. The Constitution as drawn up had been approved by the U.S. branches, and was now laid before the London members. The proposal was seconded by Mrs. Whelen and passed with one dissentient. The provisions of the Constitution were then taken one by one and passed, with or without discussion, one slight amendment being proposed by Mrs. Whatmough and passed by the meeting for submission to the Council Meeting.

The date and place of Council Meeting—Central Hall, Westminster, on February 2—were then fixed; and delegates to the Council

from the London members were provisionally elected.

Candidates for Committee—Important

It was decided that nominations for the new Committee, each to be backed by five members of the Society, or by two branches, must reach the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, at 27, Chancery Lane, W.C., not later than first post on Wednesday morning, January 26. By the new Constitution, members of the Committee are elected for two years, half of the Committee (three men and three women) being obliged to offer themselves for re-election every year. The six retiring members at the forthcoming Council Meeting will be

Miss Lena Ashwell,
Mrs. Agnes Harben,
Mrs. Elaine Whelen,
Mr. Albert Dawson,
Major H. J. Gillespie, and
Mr. Gerald Gould.

Of these, Miss Ashwell and Mrs. Harben are definitely resigning from the Committee, and two new women members will have to be elected in their place. The other four retiring members—Mrs. Whelen, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Gould, and Major Gillespie—offer themselves for re-election.

Secretaries' Reports

Mrs. Ayrton Gould gave an interesting summary of the work of the U.S. during the past year, and called upon members to put themselves in closer touch with headquarters, and to come forward and help in the necessary work of keeping the Suffrage movement alive during the war. Mr. Charles Gray followed with an account of the U.S. branches and their activities.

Important Statement about "Votes for Women"

Miss Evelyn Sharp, Editor of VOTES FOR WOMEN, then made an announcement about the paper. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. John Scurr (Hon. Treasurer *pro tem.*), Miss Sharp made a financial statement, and gave figures to show that, owing to the decline of advertisement revenue, the rise of the cost of printing and paper and other increases in the cost of production without a corresponding increase in income, it would be necessary, probably for the period of the war, to cease bringing out VOTES FOR WOMEN as a weekly paper. The Committee proposed, therefore, to carry it on as a weekly paper until the end of January, and after that to issue it on the 15th of every month, beginning on February 15. In this way the Committee hoped to husband the resources and maintain the other activities of the Society until after the war.

U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

92, Borough Road, S.E.

Secretary, Miss M. R. Cochrane. Tel.: Hop 4172

We have had two disappointments this week, as Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck was prevented by illness from coming to speak on Tuesday, and Mrs. Aspland was unable to give us her promised concert. Miss Sharp very kindly took Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck's place for the meeting on Tuesday, but we had no time to arrange an entertainment for Thursday, which caused great disappointment to the members, who turned up in full force. However, we contented ourselves with a gramophone concert instead.

The Christmas Party

Our party was a great success, and nearly all our members and guests were able to come. We sat down to tea to the number of 170, and the lighted Christmas tree on the platform made a delightful background to the long tea tables surrounded by happy folk of all ages bent on having a good time. After tea, the tables were cleared away, and the older members sat round the room with the babies, while the younger ones and the helpers played with the children.

When we had romped till we were tired, Father Christmas (Mr. Sidney Wood) appeared beside the tree on the platform, and the presents were given away, one by one.

We are very grateful indeed to all the kind friends who enabled us to give the children such a happy time last Saturday; to those who came and helped, Miss Fox who gave us the toys—Miss Chalmers also—and Mrs. Bennett, who brought flowers for the tables. Also to the following, who, in addition to those acknowledged last week, sent us money:—

Mrs. Parkyn	0 5 0	Miss Newcomb...	0 2 6
Miss Putnam.....	1 0 0	Miss Hodge	0 2 6
Mrs. Delisle		Mrs. Allen	0 5 0
Burns	0 10 0	Mrs. Fox	
Miss Young	0 2 6	Strangways	0 5 0
Mrs. Hardcastle..	0 2 6	Miss Somers.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Cobden		Miss Orton.....	0 2 0
Sanderson	0 5 0	Miss Wilmot	0 2 0
Mrs. Whelen	0 5 0	Miss	
Miss Chalmers ...	0 4 0	Postlethwaite ..	0 2 6
(and Toys)		Miss M. Brown...	0 5 0

U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB MATINEE

The U.S. Women's Club is becoming known to many people not connected with the U.S., and arousing a great deal of interest.

It is with great pleasure that we have to announce that a committee has been formed to give a matinee entertainment in aid of the Club funds. It is under the patronage of the Duchess of Marlborough, Millicent Duchess of Sutherland, the Marchioness of Downshire, the Marchioness of Londonderry, the Countess of Essex, the Countess of Tankerville, Winifred, Countess of Arran, the Lady Betty Balfour, the Lady Willoughby de Broke, and Baroness de Forest, and will be held at the New Theatre (St. Martin's Lane), which has been kindly lent by Mr. Dion Boucicault, on Friday, February 25, at 2.30. It will consist of a first-class programme, including two short plays, songs, dances, and sketches.

The following list of artistes will be enough to make every reader decide to spend the afternoon of February 25 at the New Theatre: Mr. Henry Ainley, Miss Gladys Cooper, Miss Gertrude Elliott, Mr. Fred Emney, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Stanley Logan, Mr. Roland Pertwee, Miss Muriel Pratt, Miss Christine Silver, Miss Dorothy Varick, Miss Lottie Venne, Miss Henrietta Watson, Mr. Augustus Yorke (of "Potash and Perlmutter" fame).

Tickets at the usual theatre prices may be had at the box-office, or at the U.S. offices, 27, Chancery Lane, after February 1st.

LETCHEWORTH U.S.

Hon. Sec.: Miss Pym, 2, Meadow Way Green

The monthly meeting for discussion was held on Monday, January 10, at Mrs. Muncaster's, Letchworth Lane, and Miss Hope Rea very kindly came and gave an address on "War and Life." Her lecture was intensely interesting, and gave rise to many points for discussion. A collection was made at the end for the local poster fund.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Isabel Buxton, 111, Queen's Road

We are now busy working up our big meeting (see Campaign). Will all willing to help volunteer at once, so as to save correspondence? There is plenty of work for all of us if we are to make it a success.

MANCHESTER U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Hope Hampson
Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate.

Will any members come forward to help with giving out bills, &c., for the meeting on February 6? A resolution has been sent by the branch on the subject of Miss Margaret Ashton's dismissal from various council committees to the local papers and to the committees on which she served strongly protesting against the action of the City Council.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Adshead for having so kindly helped with paper-selling during the absence of one of the regular sellers.

CONTENTS

	PAGE.
Our Cartoon	129
United Suffragists	130
The Outlook	131
U.S. Meeting at Bristol	131
Will Conscription Force Women to be Blacklegs?	132
Was Dickens a Suffragist? By the Rev. Cyril Isherwood	133
A Book About Finland	134
Correspondence—Who Buys VOTES FOR WOMEN?	134
Comparison of Punishments	135
What the Country Wants	135
Watching the Courts	135
Justice Blind in One Eye	135

DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom; to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

It appears probable as we go to press that the Compulsion Bill will be sent up to the Lords by the end of the week. We do not know as these words are written what safeguards the measure in its final form will provide against industrial conscription; but unless these are definite and inviolable, there is grave reason for fearing that women may find themselves in the hideous position of being used in industry to replace men who are not, as now, voluntarily enlisting for active service, but are being forced into it by pressure that would be ineffective but for the powers conferred under the Bill. We deal with this and other points affecting women and conscription in our leading article.

The Next Session

In any case, an early prorogation of Parliament until the middle of February may be looked for, in order to secure the transaction in the new Session of the financial business that must be effected by March 31. This accomplished, the way will be clear, if the Government chooses to see its opportunity and to take it, for the introduction of a broad measure of Franchise Reform, of which an essential provision must be the long-delayed enfranchisement of women. Dealing with the probability that the clause securing the Plural Voting Bill might be dropped out of the Parliament Bill by the Lords, the London Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* said last Saturday: "There will in any case have to be a new Franchise Bill after the war and before the general election." This Bill may be sprung upon the country without the provision of votes for women as suddenly as certain other and far more contentious measures have already been sprung. In order to be prepared, and to prepare others, for this contingency, United Suffragists are holding a meeting at Bristol on the last day of the Labour Party Conference, particulars of which will be found on this page.

Progress in Manitoba

In our issue of December 24 we stated that both in Manitoba and Alberta Government Bills to grant women the Provincial franchise would be introduced as soon as the Legislatures of these two Provinces re-assembled in the New Year. In a brief note in the *Times* it is announced that the Woman Suffrage Bill has passed its Second Reading in the Manitoba Parliament, so we may expect to hear very shortly of the passage of its further stages also. We very warmly congratulate our Canadian fellow-Suffragists on having gone so far on their way to enfranchisement, and hasten to add, in case there are any "Antis" left to argue that the Manitoba women will only secure the local government vote under their Bill, that in Canada the Dominion suffrage is conferred automatically on all who become qualified to vote for their Provincial Legislature.

Prices and Wages

We cannot agree with the *Times* that the annual review by the Director of the Depart-

ment of Labour Statistics, just published in the Board of Trade *Labour Gazette*, "is, on the whole, a very cheerful one." It is true that the review records a decline in unemployment to 0.6 per cent., and an average increase in wages of about 3s. 10d. a week per head, and foretells "a very much larger influx of women into industry than has yet taken place." But it also tells of an increase in the price of food alone, which forces the housewife to spend £1 9s. where she used in peace time to spend £1, and this without any reference to the corresponding rise in clothing, boots, and household commodities which has also taken place. And we must further point out that the rise in wages affects only a minority of the women workers, the vast majority of whom are still paid considerably less than men, although they are doing men's work; and that Old Age Pensioners and others in receipt of small fixed incomes merely suffer acutely from the rise in the cost of living, without enjoying any of the proceeds of the rise in wages.

The Ecstasies of the "Daily Mail"

The *Daily Mail* has joined the ranks of those who are discovering the qualities of women. It told the public, both on its posters and in its leading article, last Monday, that "The Women are Splendid." For some years, our contemporary tells us, our cause was obscured by the hysteria of the Suffragettes. To-day it begins to look as though the votes-for-women demonstrations were but manifestations of the tremendous pent-up energy of more than half the nation.

We could not expect, perhaps, to get to the end of an article of this kind without meeting the word "hysteria," but we are at least glad that the writer of it tempers the familiar accusation with a half-admission that the "splendid" qualities of women in war time may actually have been existent in women in peace time. Will not the *Daily Mail* go one step further, and insist that, in common justice, the patriotism of women shall go hand in hand, like that of men, with the rights of citizenship and a man's pay for a man's work? It will be easier, in that case, for us to believe that the ecstasies of its leading article are—shall we say?—a manifestation of its pent-up desire to set women politically free.

Cooking the Dinner

Very gradually it is beginning to dawn upon those in authority that women's ability to cook the dinner, which was considered in peace time to preclude her ability to cast a vote, might be used in war time to save waste in the army; and we are glad to see that women cooks are now being to some extent employed in the camps. Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, in a letter to the Press, draws attention to the amazing economies effected last October in a certain convalescent camp, with a daily average strength of 2,820, as soon as women cooks were substituted for men. The total saved in one month amounted nearly to £900; and in detail, she mentions the following economies as having been effected: Meat, 5,471lbs; bread, 7,369lbs; tea, 191lbs; mustard, 17lbs. This surprises no sensible person who reflects that domestic economy is the woman's business in every home in the country. But if women counted in the country in a political capacity, is it conceivable that the country's money would be wasted in this lavish manner simply because of a prejudice against making use of women, professionally, in a domestic capacity?

The Future of "Votes for Women"

It is with very great regret, though with undaunted spirit and unwavering resolution, that we have to announce our inability to continue, after the end of January, to issue VOTES FOR WOMEN as a weekly publication. Owing to the increased cost of production, and to a decreasing income consequent upon loss of advertisement revenue through the war, the Committee of the United Suffragists have, after due deliberation, come to the decision to bring out only one more weekly edition of the paper after our issue of to-day, and in future to publish only once a month, beginning on February 15. We know

our readers will share our regrets; they will wish, with us, that we could, after holding out so long, have held out in our weekly form until the end of the war. But we can rely with equal confidence upon their co-operation in making a success of the monthly issue, which will contain most of the features that have made VOTES FOR WOMEN a prominent political journal all over the world for upwards of eight years, and will, we hope, continue as before to safeguard the interests of women, watch the proceedings in Parliament, and uphold with all its might the dear and great cause for which it stands.

Items of Interest

The Royal Red Cross (Second Class) has been bestowed on a number of nurses for their war services. Miss Georgie Fyfe has been made a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold, in recognition of her services with the Scottish Ambulance Corps in Belgium.

The Prime Minister of Sweden informed a deputation of Suffragists on January 11 that no measure to extend the political rights of women could be introduced into the Riksdag this year.

In the interests of free speech, United Suffragists in Manchester have passed resolutions condemning the action of the City Council in excluding Councillor Margaret Ashton from a Sub-Committee of the Education Committee on account of her opinions, and also in refusing the use of public halls to certain organisations.

At Chertsey the only woman town crier in England may be found. She has taken the place of her husband, who has enlisted.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, the L.D.S. diploma was conferred on Miss E. L. Watterson.

In Austria, women are now being called upon to fill the place of the firemen who have joined the army.

TO "VOTES FOR WOMEN" SUBSCRIBERS

We propose, on ceasing weekly publication, to send to our subscribers four copies of each monthly issue until their subscriptions run out. If they prefer to have their money returned, will they kindly notify us to that effect?

U.S. MEETING AT BRISTOL

Offers of Help Wanted

Our meeting at Bristol takes place on Friday, January 28, at 7.30, in the Kingsley Hall. The annual conference of the Labour Party will be held at Bristol on January 26, 27, and 28, and the United Suffragists feel that it is very important to seize this opportunity of holding a meeting to insist that when the Government undertakes the revision of the Parliamentary Register, women shall be placed upon it equally with men.

The Chair will be taken by Mr. George Lansbury, and the speakers will be Mrs. Despard, Mr. Robert Smillie, Miss Catherine Marshall, and Miss Evelyn Sharp.

As it is highly probable that one of the first questions to be dealt with in the next session of Parliament will be that of registration, Suffragists must make every possible effort to see that this matter is equitably dealt with, and that the claims of women shall be no longer ignored. It is therefore essential that the Bristol meeting should be a great success, as indeed it ought to be with a list of speakers so representative of the interests of women and of industry.

How Members Can Help

We want a great deal of help. Bristol members are urgently requested to let us know at once how much they can do; and London members, who can spend a few days in Bristol, or who can contribute towards the expenses of the campaign, should lose no time in communicating with us at 27, Chancery Lane. Thanks are due to Mrs. Anderson for the gift of £1 towards expenses.

This is a very critical moment in the Suffrage movement, and we hope our readers will do all they possibly can to ensure a packed hall on January 28.

Articles and News contributed for insertion in **VOTES FOR WOMEN** should be sent to The Editors, **VOTES FOR WOMEN**, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

The Editors cannot hold themselves in any way responsible for the return of unused manuscripts, though they will endeavour as far as possible to return them when requested if stamps for postage are enclosed. MSS. should, if possible, be typewritten.

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The terms are, post free, 6s. 6d. annual subscription, 3s. 3d. for six months inside the United Kingdom, 8s. 8d. (2dols. 25cents) and 4s. 4d. (1dol. 15cents) abroad, payable in advance.

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13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, LONDON, E.C.

GRAND MATINÉE

(In Aid of the U.S. Women's Club)

IN THE

NEW THEATRE

(ST. MARTIN'S LANE),

ON

Friday, February 25, at 2 30.

ARTISTES:

Mr. Henry Ainley, Miss Gladys Cooper, Miss Gertrude Elliott, Mr. Fred Emney, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Stanley Logan, Mr. Roland Pertwee, Miss Muriel Pratt, Miss Christine Silver, Miss Dorothy Varick, Miss Lottie Venne, Miss Henrietta Watson, Mr. Augustus Yorke ("Potash & Perlmutter").

Tickets, at usual prices, from the BOX OFFICE, NEW THEATRE, and U. S. OFFICES, 27, CHANCERY LANE, W.C. Ready after February 1.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

27, CHANCERY LANE, W.C.

Telegraphic Address:—Unisuffra. Holb., London

Telephone:—Holborn 5880

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1916.

WILL CONSCRIPTION FORCE WOMEN TO BE BLACKLEGS?

Even a Bill which is expressly confined to the conscription of certain male members of the population for one of those national services which women are neither urged nor allowed to undertake—even such a Bill affects the lives of women, directly and indirectly, and even such a Bill should not be passed without the voice of womanhood being heard in the matter. We do not refer merely to the fact that the compulsion of men affects women *through* men, just as the enlistment of men does. Yet this is a fact which is worth a moment's special consideration. Take the case of a single man whose mother is dependent upon him. Whether he waits, like the gentleman in the poster, for his mother to say "Go!"—whether he goes without consulting his mother—or whether he debates and considers the question with his mother before making up his mind one way or the other, at any rate in all three cases the issue is a personal, not a legal, one: and there is no grievance of the woman *qua* woman or the man *qua* man. The moment legal compulsion is introduced, it is obvious that the question assumes a different aspect. If the man thinks he ought to be exempt, he may apply for exemption: but he must apply for it to a tribunal of men, established by exclusively male legislation; and however much women may be affected by the procedure of such tribunals (it is obvious that in some cases they may be deeply affected), they have no voice in the decision, nor any remedy if the whole machinery and procedure seem to them undesirable. The distinction is clear between the compulsion of an individual man, who is actually or potentially a voter, and the compulsion of the whole female sex, which cannot in any way safeguard its own interests politically, or call to account the people who pass the compulsory legislation.

The present Bill is held up in some quarters as an example of how futile votes are, since it is being passed without any general election, and the male voter seems to have no more say in it than the voteless woman. But everyone familiar with the feeling and the talk in Parliamentary circles knows perfectly well that Members believe their constituents as a whole to favour the Bill. We have nothing to do with whether this belief is right or wrong: the point is that the supposed will of the voter is affecting legislation—and if Members have gauged that will wrong, the voters will have a means of bringing the mistake home at the polls. Moreover, is it not conceivable that the discrimination against the unmarried in the Bill is at least partly due

to the fact that married men have votes in far larger proportions than unmarried?

We do not, of course, blink the fact that military conscription affects men in a way and degree very different from the way and degree in which it affects women. It is a special case: it is a case where men are primarily (though not solely) concerned: it is therefore a case in which the Anti-Suffragist can speak with some show of reason. But if we grant him this point, we must ask him to be consistent. We must ask him to favour the votes of women, and of women *only*, being taken on all matters that primarily concern women. Maternity is as specially women's concern as military service is men's: if men should wholly decide the latter, all questions relative to maternity insurance, State provision for maternity, and so forth, should be decided wholly by women. *At present they are decided wholly by men.* Is this fair? It is quite true that men are affected in a thousand ways by maternity legislation. That problem is mixed up with infantile mortality, and that with the future of the Empire—which concerns men as much as women. But compulsory military service is mixed up with the whole question of the war, and that with the future of the Empire—which concerns women as much as men. The interests of the sexes cannot be divided: their legislative powers should therefore be equal.

But, as we said above, we refer not only to the way in which the interests of both sexes are necessarily entangled in any legislation: we suspect that the Compulsion Bill will also affect women directly. As we go to press, the final form of the Bill has not been decided in Committee: but we say frankly that we do not see what amendments can possibly be effective in securing that it shall cause *no* modification of industrial conditions. The Prime Minister, while declaring that such modification was not *intended* by the Bill, had to admit the extreme difficulty of guarding against it. And if any element of industrial compulsion is introduced, however indirectly, however completely without direct authorisation under the Bill, it is clear that women are going to be affected as much as men. To take only one point:—Suppose a man merely *believes* himself to be being coerced into the army because he is found to be not indispensable, and suppose he is found to be not indispensable because his place can be filled by a woman? It is one thing for a woman to take a man's place in order to release him for enlistment when he *wants* to go—that makes a bond of comradeship. It is a different thing for a woman to be used as an instrument for forcing a man to go against his will—that necessarily makes bitterness and sex-hostility, and forces the woman into the position of a black-leg. Nor are other dangers lacking. If, as the majority of organised Labour fears, one result of the Compulsion Bill's becoming law were to be a general tightening up of restrictions and control over personal liberty in factories and workshops, it is idle to pretend that women would be less affected by this than men.

However, there is one gleam of light in the situation, although it is not without a certain sardonic feeling that we welcome it. The Prime Minister's principles, though scarcely liberal in scope or impressive in depth, appear to be of infinite accommodation. He assured an admiring House the other day that he had introduced Compulsion to save the voluntary principle. Perhaps he will one day be found safeguarding the principle of Anti-Suffrage by enfranchising women!

WAS DICKENS A SUFFRAGIST?

By the Rev. Cyril Isherwood

I suppose one of the reasons why we love Dickens so much is that he is absolutely human and real in drawing his characters. None of them are mere automatons, puppets pulled by a string; but they are all real living people whom we get to love (or otherwise) as if we knew them personally. Not the slightest shade of expression seems to have escaped his notice; the joys and sorrows of each individual are portrayed so minutely that they almost become our own. How keenly Dickens felt the injustices and muddling stupidity of those in authority, and how scathingly he holds them up to derision! But in considering his attitude towards Woman Suffrage we have to take into account, first of all, the date at which he lived and wrote. He was born in the year 1812 and died in 1870, so his writings belong to the period between 1832 and 1870, although some of his tales and "Sketches by Boz" were written at an even earlier date. Therefore, these dates include the passing of the First Reform Bill and also the Second Reform Bill in which the word "male" was so insultingly inserted.

Although it was in the year 1870 that the first Woman Suffrage Bill reached its second reading, and then was shelved, the Woman Suffrage Movement up till then was in the initial stages, being of little interest except to a few who realised from the first the need of the woman's point of view. Surely it is for this reason that we do not find, in the writings of Dickens, more mention of so important a subject? But it is the object of this article to show that the subject had by no means escaped his notice, and that he certainly was in favour of so necessary a reform, as we see in different references to it made by him both directly and indirectly. For the most part, the women depicted by Dickens are those usually classified as "Victorian," and, remembering the time he wrote, that is not to be wondered at. The strong point of his best women is their virtue and goodness—his women are not powerful in the way that many writers depict them, but, then, neither are many of his men, if you come to that!

Married Co-operation

In "Our Mutual Friend," we have two examples of domestic co-operation, given in a most happy way—the genial benevolent Mr. and Mrs. Boffin and the Rev. Frank Milvey and his wife. In searching for the little orphan, whom in their generosity the Boffins are anxious to adopt, the spirit of co-operation pervades every process of the transaction. A unanimity of purpose seems to flow from every suggestion and idea that the one or the other proposes. So likewise with the Rev. Milvey and his wife, whom they consult as to the best and most suitable little boy to adopt. Both evince a knowledge of the different children of the parish that shows how they have equally worked amongst the poor. But especially in Mr. Boffin do we see the husband who not only does not wish to dominate his wife, but who laughs to scorn, when making his will, the bare suggestion made by his lawyer that Mrs. Boffin should be bound by any "conditions." The only thing he insists upon is that it must be "tight"—but "tight" in so far as it would make Mrs. Boffin absolutely free to do exactly what she chose with his money. It certainly is refreshing to read of such a spirit, especially when we remember that Dickens wrote this

many years before the Married Women's Property Act was passed, when Mr. Boffin could have left his money all away, or she might have married a second husband, who could have extorted every penny. No wonder the lawyer was surprised!

But before we leave "Our Mutual Friend," there is another interesting passage that concerns us. It is when Mr. Veneering buys a seat in Parliament. There we see the old (?) system of the use of women in doing the dirty work of politics. This is seen in the words of Twemlow, Mr. Veneering's friend, when he hears that Mrs. Veneering is "working"—although in her case she was merely having an afternoon's visiting among friends, with the object of securing more votes—"A woman's tact is invaluable. To have the dear sex with us, is to have everything with us." Yes, indeed, it is the old, old story that Suffragettes know so well. When the time for electioneering comes, the amount of work done by the "dear sex" does indeed play an important part in securing the seat!

Mrs. Bumble and Obedience

This brings us to another interesting scene, which we find in "Oliver Twist," when Mr. Bumble, the parish beadle, in the well-known spirit of the "Anti," tries to subdue his new wife—one would be inclined to think he has taken advice from Mr. Fordham. Two months of married life have worn off all disguise in the shape of affection, and the time has arrived when—as so often happens—the husband begins with force to assert his authority. So Mr. Bumble, who, in the words of Dickens, "had a decided propensity for bullying, derived no inconsiderable pleasure from the exercise of petty cruelty, and consequently was (it is needless to say) a coward," determined to show his wife that the "prerogative of a man is to command." But he did not know his better half, who demanded what was the prerogative of a woman. "To obey, ma'am," was the answer. "Your late husband should have taught it you; and then, perhaps, he would have been alive now; I wish he was, poor man!" It was at this point that the consort of the said gentleman resolved to act once and for all; and, finding that tears were of no avail, inflicted upon the person of her husband such traces of her fingers and hands as proved, at any rate, her superior strength of muscle. Combining with this a strength of tongue, she soon emerged from the contest victorious, and henceforth reigned supreme.

But near the close of the book, the "prerogative" rebounds upon the unhappy head of Mr. Bumble in a way quite unlooked for. When, by an act of deception and fraud, which had been perpetrated by Mrs. Bumble alone, both were dismissed from public office, Mr. Bumble resorted to the excuse as old as Adam:—

"It was all Mrs. Bumble. She would do it," urged Mr. Bumble, first looking to ascertain that his partner had left the room. "That is no excuse," replied Mr. Brownlow. "You were present on the occasion of the destruction of these trinkets, and, indeed, are the more guilty of the two in the eyes of the law, for the law supposes that your wife acts under your direction." "If the law supposes that," said Mr. Bumble, squeezing his hat emphatically in both hands, "the law is a ass—an idiot. If that's the eyes of the law, the law is a bachelor, and the worst I wish the law is that his eyes may be opened by experience—by experience."

Could Dickens have presented the case for Woman Suffrage better than this? When the "Anti," who would keep his wife in a state of subjection, as a result of that very same subjection has to suffer for her wrong-doing, he sees by this very painful object-lesson the stupidity of the law. Mr. Bumble was right when he said that the law was a "bachelor," for his idea of a bachelor was that of a bully who could only see one side of the question.

In "The Old Curiosity Shop," we have a

character which, although by no means one to admire so far as her personality is concerned, is yet one who is able to rise above the usual run of women and perform the office of a lawyer equally with her brother. Miss Sally Brass was a lady, who, from her earliest infancy, had maintained a firm grip upon the law and who became "a kind of Amazon at common law," so proficient was she in its intricacies. Being a lady of a many-sided capacity, she was her brother's "clerk, assistant, housekeeper, secretary, confidential plotter, adviser, intriguer, and bill of costs increaser"; in fact, he would have been able to do very little without her aid. As their best client, although not one to pay compliments, remarked, "she's always foremost." It was her father's chief regret, when near the end of his life, that she "could not take out an attorney's certificate and hold a place upon the roll." That day, however, was yet to come, and, although it is still delayed, is needed now more than ever. With all her faults, Miss Sally Brass played the game to the last, refusing to say anything that would involve or betray her brother; and when she saw the game was up, and that their plotting and intrigue had all come to light, warned the chief plotter with them of coming arrest. She was a lady who, if only her energies and principles had been directed in the right channel, might have been a really splendid character—certainly an ardent Suffragette; for she was firm and true to the principles that she had, and absolutely loyal to her (unworthy) partner—her brother—who was only too ready to betray her.

A Reference to Suffragists

In "Bleak House" we find a very interesting reference, especially as that book was written as far back as 1853. It is a reference to Mrs. Jellyby, who had been an ardent supporter and worker for the mission to the natives of Borrioboola-Gha (wherever that may be), and who had given all her time—available and otherwise—to correspondence on the subject. But, owing to some misunderstanding, she lost her interest in the mission, and took up another subject, which seems to have needed even more correspondence—the right of women to sit in Parliament. This reference—although slight—shows us that even then there was a tendency to political reform for women.

But this brings us to our last reference, which is even more enlightening, and we find it in "Dombey and Son," concerning the faithful and energetic Susan Nipper, who was a Suffragette in practice if not in theory. A woman of firm determination, abhorring all that was shallow or false, she refused to stand by in silence and see her young mistress treated so coldly by her father, even although it cost her her place, and that at a few minutes' notice. Fortunately, she married a man who appreciated her ability and intellect, and who, even at that early date, saw that it would be women like her who would free women from their political serfdom, and secure those rights which have been so long denied to them. This is specially stated by her husband, at the wedding party of an old school friend, who never could say enough about her ability—"Nobody but myself can tell what the capacity of that woman's mind is. If ever the Rights of Women, and all that kind of thing, are properly attended to, it will be through her powerful intellect."

How literally true this has been proved during the last few years! Those who have been in, or have followed, the Suffrage Movement of the last ten years, have been able to witness the result of the "powerful intellect," which has done such magnificent work in educating and enlightening women, and, if it had not been for a Government famed for its obstinacy and blindness, would have actually secured the Vote before now.

A BOOK ABOUT FINLAND*

To those critical persons who are not satisfied with gathering their information on other countries from the innumerable works produced by clever journalists on their return from a hurried tour through an inconsiderable part of the country in question, Mr. Arthur Reade's book on Finland will be very welcome.

Mr. Reade, who is lecturer in English at the University of Helsingfors, has for many years made his home in Finland, and writes, not as a traveller, but as an inmate. The book is simply and clearly written, not crowded with unnecessary details, and gives an extremely vivid idea of life in Finland, and the national character.

It is greatly to be regretted that so little is known of this interesting country. It is true that all Suffragists realise that it was the first European country to enfranchise women, but their knowledge seldom goes further. It is, however, especially at the present time, important to notice under what circumstances the women of Finland gained their emancipation.

In 1809, Finland, which had for centuries been a province of Sweden, became a part of the Empire of Russia, conserving as its own the Constitution and legislation then in force. The Tsar of Russia thus became the Grand Duke, or Constitutional monarch of Finland. The change was then greatly to the advantage of Finland, and great progress was made, particularly with regard to education.

A National Crisis

In 1899, however, the present Tsar decided to introduce Russian military law into the country without the consent of the Diet. For this purpose General Bobrikoff was appointed Governor-General of Finland, and he at once proceeded to force upon the people a military system by which the army would be quadrupled, and form part of the Russian army.

This unconstitutional action was bitterly resented, and two forms of protest were at once adopted:—

Not content with protesting against this coup d'état through the ordinary channels, the leaders of public opinion in Finland desired to make a protest which should be representative of the nation at large. A great address to the Tsar was planned and carried out, every adult man and woman in the country being invited to sign it. *It was generally felt that this appeal to the non-enfranchised portions of the nation at a time of crisis implied a moral responsibility to enfranchise them, both men and women, when the crisis had passed.*

(The italics are ours.)

We very much wish that we could believe a similar feeling to exist in England to-day. Unhappily, though appeals to the non-enfranchised portions of the nation are being made every day, we see no indications that our legislators feel themselves under a moral responsibility to enfranchise them, either now or when the present crisis has passed.

The second form of protest was the refusal of the Finns to serve as conscripts. The majority of the clergy refused to proclaim the new law in the churches, and in those places where they tried to do so, the congregation drowned the proclamation by singing hymns. The district clerks refused to prepare lists of men of military age, and both the presidents of the communes and the doctors refused to work the law in any way. The young men refused to appear. By 1903, however, the resistance had weakened, partly owing to the gradual terrorisation of the country, and partly owing to the ingenuity of the Russian officials,

who instituted a formal registration of names. Russianisation was becoming complete, when it was checked by the assassination of General Bobrikoff in the summer of 1904.

In the autumn of 1905, a general strike broke out, and this, coupled with the fact that Russia was then in the midst of the war with Japan, induced the Tsar to restore the constitution.

A United Nation

Immediately many long-delayed reforms were carried out, the most important of which was to change the existing form of government to a single Chamber of two hundred members, elected by all men and women of twenty-four, on a system of proportional representation. The exact system prevailing is, unfortunately, not explained. In a very interesting chapter on the position of women, Mr. Reade gives the opinions of a number of well-known statesmen and public men upon the effect of Woman Suffrage. Suffragists will not be surprised to hear that all are favourable. It is impossible to give more than a brief account of this chapter, but one or two points deserve special notice:—

They have not formed an independent woman's party . . . and election statistics show that they have voted for the different parties in much the same proportion as the men. There is no truth in the assertion sometimes made that woman's suffrage has especially benefited the Socialist party.

As regards the alleged general discontent with woman's suffrage and its bad effect on home life, there is an absolute consensus of denial. . . . It is interesting to know that women have not favoured special protective legislation for their sex in factories, unless such legislation is to apply to men as well. Not long ago the question of night-work in factories arose, but the majority of woman workers were against the proposal, because they questioned whether it really would protect them, and if it would not rather drive them out of the better organised and better paid factories into the ill-paid and casual home-work. They preferred night-work with good wages to the prohibition of night-work with bad wages, and only approve of its interdiction when, as in the Bakeries law, the embargo is laid on both sexes alike.

One of the reasons which, in Mr. Reade's opinion, made Finland more ready than other European countries to accept Woman Suffrage is the prevalence of co-education. The growth of the mixed school has been rapid. In 1877-8, the percentage of mixed elementary schools in country districts was 48.2; in 1907-8, 89.0.

Education is considered of great importance:

The willingness to spend money on education is only the outward sign of one of the best features of the Finnish character—namely, a genuine intellectual curiosity. . . . This little nation, lying in what even to-day seems a remote corner of Europe, and which a hundred years ago seemed almost a mythological country, has for over two centuries had one of the best records for literacy in the whole of Europe. . . . Teachers have been among the most honoured men and women in the country, and there is nothing of that condescending attitude towards the profession that was common in England not many decades ago, and which even to-day has not entirely disappeared.

A very sympathetic account of the Labour movement is also given.

The part of the book devoted to the countryside and general life of the people is admirable. It is rare and refreshing to find an author who does not think that the effect produced upon the reader is in direct proportion to the number of words used.

The Future of Finland

The last chapter deals with the second period of Russianisation, which began in 1908, and is still proceeding. It recalls the tragedy of Persia, and forms very distressing reading. Mr. Reade, however, is not without hope for the future. The only unfavourable criticism we have to make is of the classified Index, which is so incomplete as to be of no use whatever.

* "Finland and the Finns." By Arthur Reade. (London: Methuen & Co. Price 10s. 6d. net.)

CORRESPONDENCE

Who Buys "Votes for Women"?

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—I think you may like to know how my corner of Oxford Street received last week's paper. It was friendly all the time—a far cry indeed from the days at the beginning of the war, when nearly every passer-by accused the paper-seller of a lack of patriotic feeling. I used to start off to sell in those days wondering if I could possibly go through with it. My customers last Saturday numbered:—

(1) Two Canadian soldiers, who came up gaily to buy, and asked where our headquarters were. I told them, and they said, "We'll be sure to look in one day."

(2) A lady—a Suffragist—who often buys from me, and told me that one day, when passing in a 'bus on the other side of the street, she saw me standing at my pitch, and thought of all the paper meant and stood for. She got off the 'bus simply to cross over and buy a paper. "I don't know what we should do without the paper and you sellers," she said.


(3) Another lady, who gave me a penny to give away a copy, went on, and came back to say we might like to know that she sends VOTES FOR WOMEN every week out to her husband in the trenches. After reading it, he passes it on to his men, "who much appreciate it."

(4) A bearded clergyman, who saw the poster and promptly took off his hat, then walked on. I thought he might have followed up his good deed by buying the paper. On looking round I saw him there, holding out a penny.

(5) A man who bought a paper, and said what a great thing it was at the present time, when all the forces of Materialism were uppermost, to have someone standing for an ideal in these streets. He said the point was not really how many papers we sold, it was simply the fact of being there. The public might seem indifferent, but an impression was made—a far greater one probably than one could ever realise. That was the gist of what he said, put much more beautifully.

(6) Two young men, who seemed very happy when they passed, laughed and shouted VOTES FOR WOMEN as if greeting an old friend. They walked on a good distance, then one of them came back to say he must have a copy. They came from Newcastle, and were on their way to Paris, where they had work as wireless operators at the Eiffel Tower.—Yours, &c.,

THE SELLER AT THE OXFORD STREET PITCH.



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Wherever there is or has been, any overtaking of the body or mind, there is need for Hall's Wine. Hall's Wine, by enriching the blood, feeding the nerves, and helping you to secure the utmost benefit from your food, brightens you up like a holiday, clears away depression, and makes you able to cope with your share of the problems and worries which face us all.

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COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Manslaughter

The *Times* and other papers (January 13) report case of a private home from the front, charged before Mr. Justice Darling at the Central Criminal Court with the wilful murder of his uncle by stabbing him. The defence was that he did it to revenge an injury to his mother eight years before. The jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter, and the Judge took into consideration the man's patriotism in joining the army.

Sentence: *Eighteen months' hard labour.*

Improper Behaviour to Little Girl

The *Morning Advertiser* (January 15) reports case of a man of no occupation, charged at Lambeth Police Court before Mr. Biron with improper behaviour towards a little girl in Peckham Rye Park. There were seventeen previous convictions for fraud, and the magistrate was asked to impose a sentence that would act as a deterrent to others, and so make the parks safe for young children.

Sentence: *Six months' hard labour.*

Assault on a Woman

The *Cardiff Times* (January 15) reports case of a youth of seventeen, charged before Mr. R. A. Griffith at Merthyr with attempting to assault indecently a young woman, whom he attacked by putting his hand over her mouth and dragging her to the ground. The charge was reduced to common assault, the Stipendiary remarking that the Bench were satisfied he was guilty of a very impudent assault.

Sentence: *Fined 40s.*

WHAT THE COUNTRY WANTS

We draw the attention of our readers this week especially to the first of the three comparisons in our table of punishments. The two cases, the one of manslaughter and the other of receiving stolen goods, and the way they were treated by two respective judges, seem to us to epitomize the exposure we make, week by week, in this column of the tendency of our Courts to punish the offender against the laws of property far more severely than the offender against the laws of humanity.

"Taking all the circumstances into consideration," Judge Darling is reported to have said to the young soldier who had stabbed his uncle to death, "I feel it is desirable to give you an opportunity tolerably soon of returning to a life valuable to your country."

Is This Militarism?

Leniency, as such, is never singled out by us for condemnation; for we believe that only when punishments are given on a humane, and not a revengeful, basis will justice begin to be done in this country, or crime to be cured. But whatever justification there may be for shortening the punishment in this particular case to eighteen months (Julia Decies, for merely wounding the man who had betrayed and deserted her, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude by this same judge), we must affirm very strongly that we do not consider that justification strengthened by the fact that the young man in question was needed by a grateful country as a soldier—unless, of course, Mr. Justice Darling (always presuming he is correctly quoted) was paying a back-handed compliment to the defendant's stabbing abilities. But that would imply a deference to the spirit

HEAVY SENTENCES

Receiving Stolen Goods

The *Manchester Guardian* (November 25) reports case of a broker charged at the Manchester Assizes, before Mr. Justice Low, with receiving a quantity of brass, rubber, and other property stolen from Oldham cotton mills. The defence was that he bore an excellent character, nothing else being known against him, had served through the South African war, and was now anxious to rejoin his old regiment. The judge said an example must be made of him.

Sentence: *Eighteen months' hard labour.*

Stealing a Bicycle

The *Cardiff Times* (January 15) reports case of a labourer, aged 20, charged before the Recorder at the Cardiff Quarter Sessions with stealing a bicycle. There was a previous conviction for the same thing. It was stated he had never had a chance, had no home, and was willing to go to sea.

Sentence: *Three years in a Borstal Institution.*

Vagrancy

The *Birkenhead News* (January 8) reports case of a girl aged 18 indicted before the Recorder, Mr. Alexander Mere Latham, at the Birkenhead Borough Quarter Sessions, on a charge of vagrancy. It was stated in her defence that she was an honest girl, and if properly looked after would grow up a respectable woman; her father had taken no interest in her and had done nothing to keep her at home. The Recorder remarked it was a good thing she had been caught in time.

Sentence: *Three years in a Borstal Institution.*

of militarism that we decline to believe could have been intended.

The Other Side of the Question

What a difference in the point of view is seen when a man, who has also served his country in battle, and who is anxious to do so again, is brought up for receiving stolen goods! The strongest possible representations are made in his favour, he is given an excellent previous character, the judge is asked for a lenient sentence. One would have thought a grateful country (to say nothing of the army!) would be far more anxious for the services of a man convicted of a comparatively slight offence against property, than for those of a man convicted of the manslaughter of an uncle. But Mr. Justice Low thought otherwise; and so, for the immeasurably smaller crime, the same sentence of eighteen months is imposed, though the reasons for leniency were almost immeasurably stronger.

We repeat, the epitome of our case against the Courts for their present mode of treating offences against the person and against property is to be found in comparing these two instances.

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The United Suffragists:

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- (2) Regard Woman Suffrage as the foremost political issue of the day, and will work without considering the interests of any political party.
- (3) Recognise various forms of suffrage activity as of value, and are ready to contribute any kind of service according to their capacity and conviction.

There is no fixed subscription or entrance fee, but members are relied upon to support the Society to the best of their ability.

Membership is open to everyone who endorses the object of this Society, irrespective of membership of any other Society, militant or non-militant.

I wish to join the United Suffragists, whose object I approve.

Name (Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Please write clearly.

Address

Fill in the above Form and post it to—

Hon. Sec., United Suffragists, 27, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

WATCHING THE COURTS

We have just received the first year's report of the Committee for the Prevention of Criminal Assaults on Children (40, Leicester Square, W.C.). The Committee, as our readers may remember, was formed after a Conference held in June, 1915. Its work has, unfortunately, been very much curtailed by the war, and it is in great need of support.

Its principal work during the past year has been to obtain accurate information as to the character of criminal assaults upon children, the conditions under which they were committed, and the way in which they have been dealt with. Help in this work has been given by the National Union of Women Workers, the Mothers' Union, the Women's Local Government Society, and the British Women's Temperance Association.

The Hon. Secretary (Mrs. Arthur Hutchinson) has addressed a meeting of the Rescue and Preventive Sectional Committee of the National Union of Women Workers; and Mrs. Allan Bright read a paper at the National Council of Women in October, of which we gave a full report in *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

The Report of the Conference, the outcome of which was the founding of this Committee, can be had (3d., by post 4d.) on application to Mrs. Hutchinson, Aysthorpe, Cambridge.

JUSTICE BLIND IN ONE EYE

"Something must be done with these drunken women," said Mr. Bros at Clerkenwell the other day. "Here I have nineteen charges, and nine are women."

We do not, of course, wish to defend intemperance, but we should like to point out to Mr. Bros that out of his nineteen charges of drunkenness ten of them were men. Does he not think that something ought to be done with all these drunken men?

We confess that we find it extremely difficult to follow the workings of a magistrate's mind. When we have nine drunken women and ten drunken men, we draw the conclusion that some people drink too much. A magistrate, however, draws the conclusion that *women* drink too much. It seems that Justice, at any rate in the police-courts, is blind—in one eye only.

WOMAN'S PLACE

First Able-bodied Male: "Woman's place is in the home. As I was tellin' my wife—"

Second Able-bodied Male: "By the bye, Bill, what's your wife doin' now?"

First Able-bodied Male: "Workin' just now in the factory."

—Jus Suffragii.

A DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT!

There is not a statute book on which women have written that does not contain more humane laws as a result.

In no single State have they failed to bring a better, cleaner, and more independent note into politics.

—Judge Ben Lindsey.

FALSE MODESTY

"I am unwilling," said a Southern man, "to force woman into the vortex of politics, where her sensitiveness and her modesty will often be offended." The women of North Carolina are attempting to have the age of protection for girls raised above fourteen years. In the course of their struggle their sensitiveness and modesty will often be offended. The question is: Should they protect their sensitiveness or their daughters?

—Jus Suffragii.

COMING EVENTS

Mdlle. Marie A. Czaplicka will deliver a lantern lecture on "Poland, Past and Present," at the Ashburton Club, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C., on Monday, January 24, at 7 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Despard. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., can be obtained from the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a public meeting at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, January 26, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free.

Mr. G. B. Burgin will speak on "How Novels are Written," at the International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, January 26, at 8 p.m. Chair: Mr. Gilbert Samuel.

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting in the Kingsley Hall, Bristol, on Friday, January 28, at 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mr. Robert Smillie, Miss Catherine Marshall, and Miss Evelyn Sharp. Chair: Mr. George Lansbury. Admission free.

In aid of the U.S. Women's Club, a grand entertainment will be held at the New Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C., on Friday, February 25, at 2.30 p.m. (See page 130 for particulars.)

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

LANTERN LECTURE on "Poland, Past and Present," by Mdlle. Marie A. Czaplicka, at the Ashburton Club, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C., Monday, January 24, at 7 p.m. Chairman: Mrs. Despard. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., from the Women's Freedom League offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold a public meeting every Wednesday afternoon at Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3.30 p.m. Speakers, January 26: Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mr. Tanner. Admission free.

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PUBLIC MEETING

IN THE

KINGSLEY HALL, BRISTOL,

ON

FRIDAY, JAN. 28, at 7.30 p.m.

(At the close of the Labour Party Conference)

To Demand the Inclusion of Women when the Government frames its Bill to reform the Parliamentary Register

SPEAKERS:

MR. GEORGE LANSBURY (CHAIR)

MRS. DESPARD

MR. ROBERT SMILLIE

(President of the Miners' Federation)

MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL

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